

Application number 09/712,381
Amendment dated May 30, 2003
Reply to office action mailed February 24, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-24 will be pending in this application. Claims 22-24 have been added. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended for typographical reasons. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruehle et al., United States patent number 5,940,080. Reconsideration of this rejection and allowance of the pending claims in light of these remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruehle et al. (Ruehle.) But Ruehle does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 1 recites "filtering the sub-samples which are covered by the source pixel." Ruehle does not provide this feature.

The pending office action cites Ruehle, column 5, lines 60-67 as teaching this limitation. (See office action mailed February 24, 2003, page 2, section 2.) But this passage relates to counting sub-pixels covered by a portion of the rendered image. The number of sub-pixels covered is determined and a gray scale value is generated. In short, the covered and uncovered sub-pixels are averaged together. This is useful for simple text over a background. That is, it is useful where the text image and background are each a single color for a pixel being rendered. There is no reason to average the uncovered sub-pixels together, since they each have the same color.

Claim 1 provides a method where the sub-samples that are covered by the source pixel are filtered. The filtering may be averaging or other filtering method, such as weighting. (See pending application, page 11, lines 7-8.) The covered sub-samples may be different colors—since they are filtered an accurate rendering is achieved. The implementation cited by Ruehle depends on the covered sub-pixels being the same, since only a simple count is done.

Moreover, claim 1 further recites "blending the filtered sub-samples with the source pixel to create a blended sub-sample." Ruehle does not provide this feature either.

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Ruehle provides a method where a fraction of a pixel covered by a mask is determined. If the fraction is less than one-hundred but more than zero percent, the color of the text (the source/mask hybrid) is blended with the background. (See Ruehle, column 17, lines 15-52.) Accordingly, Ruehle does not create a blended sub-sample as required by the claim. Rather, an intensity based on coverage is used to blend text and background to create a color for the pixel.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 should be allowed.

Claim 7

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruehle. But Ruehle does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 7 recites "a first filter for filtering covered sub-samples." Ruehle does not provide this feature.

Again, Ruehle presupposes the special case where text is being rendered, and the text is of uniform color, at least inside a pixel. Accordingly, there is no reason to have a filter for filtering the covered sub-samples. For at least this reason, claim 7 should be allowed.

Claim 11

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruehle. But Ruehle does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 11 recites "a first filter...a blender...and a second filter." Ruehle does not provide this feature.

Again, Ruehle teaches a single blending step. That is, the covered sub-pixels are counted, an intensity level based on the percentage of covered sub-pixels is determined, and the text and background are blended accordingly. Accordingly, there is no need for the filter, blender, filter apparatus recited in the claim.

For at least this reason, claim 11 should be allowed.

Other claims

Claim 18 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim 11. The other claims depend on the above claims, and should be allowed for the same reasons as their independent claims and for the additional limitations they recite.

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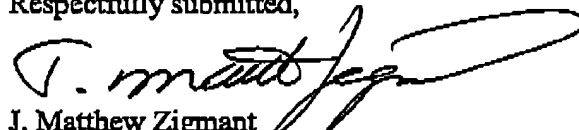
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-752-2456.

Respectfully submitted,



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